Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, before the title, please insert the following:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/539,877 filed March 31, 2000, now abandoned.

Page 1, between lines 8-9, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

Page 1, between lines 18 and 19, please insert the following:

Description of the Background

Page 5, between lines 2 and 3, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, between lines 12 and 13, please insert the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 in favor of the following new paragraph.

As far as the metal phase (b) of the catalyst is concerned, it can be introduced by means of aqueous or alcohol impregnation. According to the first technique, the silica and alumina gel, also in extruded form, is wetted with an aqueous solution of a compound of a metal of Group VIB, for example ammonium ~~heptamolibdate~~ heptamolybdate, the resulting

product is dried, is optionally calcined, and is then impregnated with an aqueous solution of a compound of the metal of Group VIII, for example cobalt nitrate. It is then dried and calcined in an ~~oxidating~~ oxidizing atmosphere ranging from 200 to 600° C. Alternatively a single aqueous solution containing both compounds of the metals of Groups VIB and VIII can be used for contemporaneously introducing these metals.

Please delete the paragraph of page 13, lines 4-20 in favor of the following new paragraph.

The gel thus obtained is bound with pseudobohemite, the latter in a quantity of 39 % by weight with respect to the total weight of the calcined silica and alumina gel plus the ligand, extruded into cylindrical pellets and ground (40-70 mesh, A_{sup} = 660 m^2/g). 10 g of the material thus obtained are then impregnated with 25 ml of aqueous solution containing 10.3 g of $(NH_4)_6Mo_7O_{24}*4H_2O$ $(NH_4)_6Mo_7O_{24}\cdot 4H_2O$ (Ammonium ~~heptamolibdate~~ heptamolybdate, hereafter called EMA) and left to rest at room temperature for 20 hours. The mixture is then dried in an oven in air at 110° C for 2 hours. The dried product is subsequently impregnated with 12 ml of aqueous solution containing 1.17 g of ~~$Co(NO_3)_2*6H_2O$~~ $Co(NO_3)_2\cdot 6H_2O$ (Cobalt nitrate, hereafter called CoN), the whole mixture being left to rest at room temperature for 20 hours. It is then dried in an oven in air at 110° C for 1.5 hours and calcined at 500° C for 4 hours, in air (rising rate: 180° C/hour). The chemical analysis of catalyst A relating to the metal content is indicated in Table 1.